

Appln No. 10/731,665
Amdt date May 20, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 5, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-22 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 20 and 21 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 12 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. The amendments add no new matter and find full support in the application as originally filed. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wisz (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,152). The Examiner has also indicated that "claims 4-6, 9 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 22 depend from claim 1. As such, claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 22 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations contained therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 22 over Wisz under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that "claims 4-6, 9 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Claims 4, 6, 9 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. As such, claims 4, 6, 9 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 13-21 are allowed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4 and 6-22 are in condition for allowance, and a timely indication of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,
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